

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJ: MEXICAN PRESS REPORTS RABASA-KISSINGER MEETING SET

FOR JAN 14: CARRIES STATEMENTS BY GOM FONSEC CRITICAL OF
TRADE LAW

REF:MEXICO 240

1. MEXICAN PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO JAN 12
DEPARTURE FOREIGN SECRETARY EMILIO RABASA FOR WASHINGTON,
WHERE ACCORDING TO REPORTS HE WILL MEET WITH SECRETARY
KISSINGER ON JAN 14 TO DISCUSS NEW US TRADE LAW.

2. AS REPORTED HERE, FONSEC WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF NEW
TRADE LAW, WHICH IF NOT "RECTIFIED" WILL CAUSE A
DETERIORATION IN HEMISPHERE RELATIONS, AND MAY IN FACT
ALREADY HAVE CAUSED "IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGES." RABASA IS
QUOTED BY JAN 13 EXCELSIOR AS NOTING THAT NEW TRADE
LAW "IS DISCRIMINATORY AND VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL
AGREEMENTS." RABASA IS SAID TO HAVE DISCUSSED
APPROACH WITH SECRETARIES OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

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AND TREASURY DURING RECENT DAYS.

3. RABASA IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT TRADE LAW IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH OAS CHARTER, AND CONTRARY TO US RESOLUTIONS AND LETTER AND SPIRIT OF CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES. FONSEC DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO DECLARATIONS AT UNCTAD II, RESOLUTION 2625 OF 1970 INGA; TOKYO DECLARATION OF SEPT 14, 1973; AND FOLLOWING ARTICLES OF OAS CHARTER: 19, 32, 34, 37, 38, AND 41. RABASA ALSO REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO ARTICLES 2 AND 5 OF CERDS IN LISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS VIOLATED BY NEW TRADE LAW.

4. MEXICAN DAILY EL HERALDO ON JAN 13 HEADLINED STORY "TRADE LAW INCREASES RISK OF WORLD CONFLAGRATION: RABASA." EL DIA NOTES MULTIPLYING CRITICISM OF TRADE LAW IN HEMISPHERE, E.G. FROM VENEZUELA, ECUADOR, PERU, ARGENTINA, AND CHEDDI JAGAN IN GUYANA. NOVEDADES HEADLINES TORY "US TRADE LAW IS DISCRIMINATORY AND VIOLATES AGREEMENTS: RABASA." MANY STORIES CARRIED ALONG SIMILAR LINES IN MEXICAN PRESS, INCLUDING WASHINGTON DATED LINED STORIES INDICATING THAT OAS WILL TAKE UP TRADE BILL QUESTION ON JAN 20, AND THAT MEXICAN AMBASSADOR DE LA COLINA EXPRESSED MEXICAN SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR ON DISCRIMINATION QUESTION. WITHOUT MAKING CLEAR IF HE HAD EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED DE LA COLINA'S STATEMENT, RABASA SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED LATTER TO COLLABORATE, TAKE INITIATIVE AND SUPPORT IN OAS WHATEVER ACTION TENDS TO AVOID DISCRIMINATION EFFECT OF TRA.

5. EL DIA JANUARY 13 EDITORIAL REFERS TO REGRETS EXPRESSED EARLIER BY FONSEC RABASA THAT CERTAIN LA COUNTRIES HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN MARCH MFMM, AS THIS MEETING WOULD HAVE BEEN IDEAL FORUM TO MAKE VIEWS ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS NEW TRADE LAW KNOWN TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND USDEL. EDITORIALS WISHING FONSEC WELL IN TALKS WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE APPEARED IN JANUARY 13 EXCELSIOR AND EL NACIONAL. EDITORIAL IN TABLOID LA PRENSA CALLS NEW TRADE LAW A BLOW TO THE SPIRIT OF TLATELOLCO AND HOPES OF LA COUNTRIES FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A "NEW DEALOGUE."

6. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT SECRETARY RABASA'S OBSERVATIONS, REPORTED ABOVE, ON TRA REFLECT HIS VIEWS ON ACTUAL LEGISLATION AND TO WHAT EXTENT A RESPONSE TO CRITICISMS THAT MEXICO NOT JOINING UNRESERVEDLY IN CRITICISM OF TRA, ALLEGED U.S. ECONOMIC AGGRESSION, ETC., AND OF HIS PERSONAL SOFTNESS TOWARDS THE U.S.

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